GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1322
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2015
Mines Safety
Girri Shri Maheish;Rathore Shri Hariom Singh

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the number of fatal accidents and casualties occurred in mines including underground mines during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT- wise;
(b)the number of cases investigated along with the nature of irregularities detected during the said period, year-wise and State/UT-wise;
(c)the number of cases registered against the companies/persons for violation of mines safety norms along with the action taken against the guilty during the above period, year-wise, State/UT-wise;
(d)whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the safety of mines and prevalence of occupational diseases in such workplaces; and
(e)if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the other measures taken to prevent accidents including accidental deaths in such hazardous workplaces?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a): The information regarding number of fatal accidents and casualties is at Annexure-I.

(b) & (c): The State-wise details of number of cases registered (as on 01.12.2015) against delinquents for violating the statutory provisions of the Mines Act, 1952 is at Annexure−II. Adequate provisions for safety and health of persons employed in mines are made in the Mines Act, 1952 and rules and regulations made there under. DGMS makes every
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effort to ensure strict compliance of such provisions by mine management. To see that the mine management carries out the mining operations in accordance with the legal provisions to ensure safety of mining workers, officers of DGMS make periodic inspections of all types of mines, irrespective of ownership types of the mines. During inspection of mines, if the workings or the environment are found to be unsafe and dangerous from the point of view of safety of workers; violation letters, notices or prohibitory orders are immediately issued to the management to take necessary steps for improvement. Unless the conditions improve for re-deployment of persons as recorded through inspections, the orders are not vacated and persons are not allowed to be deployed in such dangerous conditions. DGMS after proper enquiry also launches prosecutions against the mines which violate the rules and regulations of Mines Act, 1952.

(d) & (e): Yes, Government has proposed to conduct the occupational health survey of workers employed in stone mines and quarries of unorganised sectors. A project "Multi Centric Study of Dust Related Disease in Stone Mines and Development of Sustainable Preventive Program" has been entrusted to National Institute of Miners Health (NIMH), Nagpur, an Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Mines. The project will start from the current financial year 2015-16.
The following steps have been taken by the Government to prevent accidental deaths in mines:
(i) In order to reduce the exposure of miners to risk of accidents and health hazards, manual loading and transportation at the coal faces are being eliminated by mechanized drilling, loading and transportation;
(ii) Continuous environment monitoring system is being installed in gassy coal mines to give forewarning of any accumulation of inflammable gas, presence of noxious gases including Co, Co2 and deficiency of oxygen in mine atmosphere;
(iii) Low capacity loading and transport machinery are being replaced by high capacity machines in open cast coal mines thereby reducing the traffic in mines and accidents in opencast operations;
(iv) A fresh initiatives has been undertaken in coal mines to improve the skills of the operators and competent persons using most modern training aids like simulators, 3D Artificial Intelligent Audio-Visuals;
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(v) Workers participation and sensitization in matters of safety are ensured through training in safety and by initiatives like celebration of safety week and safety campaigns, etc.
(vi) Safety training programmes are organized among Managers and Supervisors for improving safety standards in mines.
(vii) Risk Assessment Techniques are being introduced aimed at elimination of risks and to ensure safety of workmen.
(viii) To promote and propagate safety awareness in mines, National Safety Awards (Mines), National Conference on Safety in Mines is organized by DGMS. The recommendations of National Conference on Safety in Mines go a long way in enhancing safety of mine workers.
(ix) Standard operating procedures are established to avoid unsafe practices in mines.

(x) A special safety awareness campaign has been launched to increase awareness of mine workers. i.e., 'Safety is My Responsibility' and steps have been taken to propagate the same.

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